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DOCKET: CU-2845

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Atsushi HAYAKAWA et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/074,359

FILED: February 12, 2002

TITLE: METHOD OF STERILIZATION FOR CONTAINER, APPARATUS  
USING THEREFOR, AND HEAT TREATMENT FOR CONTAINER) Group Art Unit: 1744  
) Examiner: Sean E. Conley

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 23, 2003 having a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on March 23, 2004. Applicants submit the following responsive amendment in the above-identified application. Also submitted with this amendment is a Request for one-month Extension with the required fee, to extend the period of reply to April 23, 2004. Applicants believe this amendment places the application in better condition for allowance. Applicants' remarks are attached hereto and start on page 3.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the indicated paragraphs with the attached amended paragraphs.